

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 10, 2003**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on March 10, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Scruggs and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist. Mr. Houghland was absent because of illness.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Weiler, Clayton, and Assistant City Manager Jodi Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.

Robert Leek, 120 Ridings Cove, proposed a tax on cigarettes. Mr. Leek said the tax would have positive benefits, including a decrease in youth smoking, an increase in adults that would quit, a decrease in health costs, and an increase in city revenues. He suggested a tax of 25 cents per pack, which is less than other localities tax cigarettes. He was very concerned about youth smoking. The tax would subsequently decrease litter. The revenue could be used to fund local programs. Mr. Leek offered to assist Council in any way, and thanked Council for its serious consideration of his proposal.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Leek for his comments. Council discussed the cigarette tax last month and will consider it during their budget deliberations.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Briefing on Festival Williamsburg, May 23-25, Mr. Scott Jackson of the Virginia Arts Festival

Mr. Tuttle introduced Mr. Scott Jackson, General Manager of the Virginia Arts Festival.

Mr. Jackson provided information to Council about the plans for Festival Williamsburg, which will take place Friday May 23 through Sunday May 25, the culmination of the Virginia Arts Festival. After briefing Council with background information about the Virginia Arts Festival, Mr. Jackson reviewed the special events, concerts, and exhibits that are planned for the weekend. Council members received a copy of the Virginia Arts Festival Seventh Season 2003 publication. Mr. Jackson said that the city, College of William and Mary, and Colonial Williamsburg have been very supportive. A concert venue is planned on Campus in the Sunken Garden. It is hoped that Festival Williamsburg will become an annual event, each year with a different theme. It should be a big draw for out-of-towners.

Mayor Zeidler appreciated Mr. Jackson's presentation. Many people are excited about this year's event, and it will happen at a great time of year. The Festival will emphasize Williamsburg as a cultural area with great arts resources.

Council members and Mr. Jackson briefly discussed the Festival. Mr. Tuttle said the city's website would have a link to the Festival's website. Mayor Zeidler said the Virginia Arts Festival was of high quality and a successful event. It was wonderful that Williamsburg will host part of the Festival. She expressed Council's thanks to Rob Cross and his staff.

**Overview of Braxton Court Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Proposal—
WRHA Executive Director Jim Gurganus**

Mr. Tuttle announced that Mr. Jim Gurganus, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, and Ms. Sharon Scruggs, member of the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board, were present for today's meeting. At the March 13 Council meeting, Council will hold a public hearing on the block grant application and consider a proposed resolution authorizing the application. Council members received a copy of the "Braxton Court Neighborhood Revitalization Project" information booklet.

Mr. Gurganus explained that the Braxton Court Project was necessary and needed, and that the Authority had already begun to work on the project. The Authority felt it was important to stabilize the Braxton neighborhood and preserve its historical significance. It was the first black inter-city community. Mr. Gurganus reviewed the area to be improved and explained the work that needed to be done. The Authority is seeking block grant funds to make improvements to the Braxton Court Neighborhood to include rehab or removal of existing dwelling units, improvements to the streets, wiring, drainage, and sewer, and improvements to parking in the area. The Authority has met with both the residents in the Braxton Court area and businesses on Scotland Street. The businesses are very pleased and will be putting in matching money from their establishments. Mr. Gurganus explained the method for funding improvements and how a ten-year Deed of Trust against the properties will secure the debt. However, if a property owner holds the property for ten years, he will not owe anything. The total project cost is \$1,597,033, and the Authority will apply for about \$800,000 in block grant funds.

Mr. Haulman, Council's representative on the Authority's Board, said this has been an on-going process, and the Authority and Board have provided an opportunity for the neighborhood residents to have input. The Authority has taken into consideration that this is a mixed use of both residential and commercial properties.

Council members and Mr. Gurganus discussed the project. Mr. Gurganus confirmed that a meeting would be held with Braxton Court neighbors on Wednesday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Tuttle discussed the breakdown of funding and said that the city's portion would be spread over two budget years for a total of \$373,712.

Mr. Haulman noted that this project fits a number of Council's Goals and Initiatives. It appears to be a carefully thought out project.

Mr. Gurganus noted that Mr. Ken Poore, Consultant, would be attending the March 13 Council meeting.

Briefing on Metropolitan Medical Response System Strike Team, Chief T.K. Weiler

Chief Weiler provided background information to Council on the Strike Team. The mission of the team is to “develop and sustain a comprehensive medical operational response capability for the Hampton Roads communities to the consequences of Weapons of Mass Destruction from terrorist acts, augments and integrates with jurisdictions existing disaster and emergency operations plans, and provides comprehensive medical response to disasters of all types.” Chief Weiler reviewed the information about the Team including Background, Planning and Coordination, Capabilities, Enhancement Goals, Incident Response, Budget, Critical Issues, and the current status of the Team (See Attached). The Chief said that the Federal Government funded the strike team.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Chief Weiler for the report and said that the Strike Team Response Agreement will be on the March 13 Council agenda.

PREVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 13, 2003

Council members received a copy of the agenda.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS—March 2003

Council members received a copy of the March meeting calendar.

Mr. Tuttle noted the following dates and special events:

March 14, 11:00 a.m., Community Building: Arbor Day Ceremony

March 13, 9:00 a.m., Police Department: Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony in honor of Vicki Yost.

March 15, 8:30-Noon, Williamsburg Hospitality House: City Council Retreat

March 25/27, 5:00 p.m., Municipal Building: Budget Work Sessions

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one personnel matter(s) per subparagraph 1; concerning appointments to Boards and Commissions, one property matter per subparagraph 3, concerning the disposition of city property of which discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect bargaining position or negotiating strategy of public body, and one matter per subparagraph 7 for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, consultants or attorneys pertaining to actual or probable litigation concerning a personnel matter. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Scruggs.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Tabb

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m. (Mayor Zeidler called a five-minute recess.)

At 4:05 p.m., Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Scruggs.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Zeidler, Scruggs, Tabb

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: March 10, 2003

Motion: Mr. Haulman Second: Mr. Scruggs

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Tabb

No: None

Absent During Vote: Houghland

Absent During Meeting: Houghland

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Approved: April 10, 2003

Shelia Y. Crist, Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor